

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Applicants, pursuant to revised 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, submit the following amendments to the specification:

Please *substitute* the following four (4) contiguous paragraphs for the corresponding four (4) paragraphs beginning on page 2, line 28 and extending through page 3, line 22:

31 Therefore, there is a need in the art to find molecules that bind to cellular HER-2 and particularly molecules that bind to different sites than humanized antibodies to HER-2 (e.g., Herceptin® HERCEPTIN®). Such molecules would be useful therapeutic agents for various cancers that overexpress HER-2.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides an isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} at an affinity of at least 10^8 . Preferably, the isolated polypeptide is from about 69 to 79 amino acids in length. Preferably, the isolated polypeptide binds to a site on the ECD of HER-2 that is different from the site of binding of Herceptin® HERCEPTIN® (a marketed humanized monoclonal antibody that is used for the treatment of cancer and that binds to the ECD or HER-2).

The present invention further provides an isolated DNA sequence that codes on expression for a polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} at an affinity of at least 10^8 . Preferably, the isolated polypeptide is from about 69 to 79 amino acids in length. Preferably, the isolated polypeptide binds to a site on the ECD of HER-2 that is different from the site of binding of Herceptin® HERCEPTIN® (a marketed humanized monoclonal antibody that is used for the treatment of cancer and that binds to the ECD or HER-2). The present invention further provides a transfected cell comprising an expression vector having a DNA sequence that codes on expression for a polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} at an affinity of at least 10^8 .

The present invention further provides an isolated and glycosylated polypeptide having from about 80 to 419 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2, wherein the C terminal 79 amino acids are present, and wherein at least three N-linked glycosylation sites are present. Preferably, the isolated polypeptide is from about 350 to 419 amino acids in length and four N-linked glycosylation sites are present. Preferably, the isolated polypeptide binds to a site on the

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ECD of HER-2 that is different from the site of binding of ~~Hereptin~~ HERCEPTIN® (a marketed humanized monoclonal antibody that is used for the treatment of cancer and that binds to the ECD or HER-2))

Additionally, please *substitute* the following three (3) contiguous paragraphs for the corresponding paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 32 and extending through page 4, line 33:

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The present invention provides a method for treating a solid tumor characterized by overexpression of HER-2, comprising administering an agent that binds to the extracellular domain (ECD) of HER-2, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of (a) an isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} ~~at an affinity of at least 10^8~~ , (b) an isolated and glycosylated polypeptide having from about 80 to 419 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2, wherein the C-terminal 79 amino acids are present, and wherein at least three N-linked glycosylation sites are present, (c) a monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of HER-2, and (d) combinations thereof, with the proviso that the agent cannot be the monoclonal antibody alone. Preferably, the solid tumor that overexpresses HER-2 is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, small cell lung carcinoma, ovarian cancer and colon cancer. Preferably, the agent is the isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1. Most preferably, the agent is a combination of the isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 and the monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of HER-2.

The present invention further provides a pharmaceutical composition for treating tumors that overexpress HER-2, comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of (a) an isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} ~~at an affinity of at least 10^8~~ , (b) an isolated and glycosylated polypeptide having from about 80 to 419 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2, wherein the C terminal 79 amino acids are present, and wherein at least three N-linked glycosylation sites are present, (c) a monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of HER-2, and (d) combinations thereof, with the proviso that the agent cannot be the monoclonal antibody alone, and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Preferably, the agent is the isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1. Most preferably, the agent is a combination

of the isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 and the monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of HER-2.

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The present invention further provides a method for targeting a therapeutic agent to solid tumor tissue, wherein the solid tumor tissue is characterized by overexpression of HER-2, comprising attaching the therapeutic agent to an isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M⁻¹ ~~at an affinity of at least 10^8~~ . Preferably, the isolated polypeptide is from about 69 to 79 amino acids in length. Preferably, the isolated polypeptide binds to a site on the ECD of HER-2 that is different from the site of binding of ~~Herceptin®~~ HERCEPTIN® (a marketed humanized monoclonal antibody that is used for the treatment of cancer and that binds to the ECD or HER-2) ~~---~~

Additionally, please *substitute* the following paragraph for the corresponding paragraph beginning on page 6, line 20 and extending through line 27:

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~~Figure 2 shows the detection of alternative HER-2 transcripts containing the ECDIIIa~~
sequence by Northern blot analysis. PolyA+ mRNA (2.5 µg) from different human fetal tissues (Clontech) or isolated from HEK-293 cells was resolved in a formalin agarose gel and transferred to a ~~BrightStar®~~ BRIGHTSTAR® membrane (Ambion) in 10xSSC. The membrane was hybridized with a ³²P-labeled antisense RNA probe complimentary to the ECDIII sequence, stripped and reprobed with a ³²P labeled cDNA probe specific for the 5' HER-2 exon sequence. The membranes were washed under high stringency conditions and analyzed by phosphorimaging (Molecular Dynamics) ~~---~~

Additionally, please *substitute* the following paragraph for the corresponding paragraph beginning on page 8, line 17 and extending through line 27:

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~~The present invention is based upon the initial discovery of an alternative HER-2 mRNA~~
of 4.8 kb with a 274 bp insert identified as intron 8. The retained intron is in-frame and encodes 79 amino acids [SEQ ID NO.1] followed by a stop codon at nucleotide 236. The alternative mRNA predicts a truncated HER-2 protein that lacks the transmembrane and intracellular domains and contains 419 amino acids [SEQ ID NO.2]; 340 residues that are identical to the N-terminus of p185HER-2 (SEQ ID NO:13) and 79 unique residues at the C-terminus [SEQ ID NO.1]. Using specific antibodies against either the novel 79 amino acid residue C-terminal sequence [SEQ ID

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Conclude

NO.1] or the N-terminus of p185HER-2, a 68 kDa protein product was identified [SEQ ID NO.2]. This 68 kDa protein is the product of an alternative HER-2 transcript, and is found in cell extracts and in extracellular media from several cell lines. Expression of the alternative transcript was highest in a nontransfected human embryonic kidney cell line.

Additionally, please **substitute** the following paragraph for the corresponding paragraph beginning on page 10, line 24 and extending through line 36:

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The present invention further provides a pharmaceutical composition for treating solid tumors that overexpress HER-2, comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of (a) an isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} ~~at an affinity of at least 10^8~~ , (b) an isolated and glycosylated polypeptide having from about 300 to 419 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2, wherein the C terminal 79 amino acids are present, and wherein at least three N-linked glycosylation sites are present, (c) a monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of HER-2, and (d) combinations thereof, with the proviso that the agent cannot be the monoclonal antibody alone, and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Preferably, the agent is the isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1. Most preferably, the agent is a combination of the isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 and the monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of HER-2. ~~41~~

Additionally, please **substitute** the following paragraph for the corresponding paragraph beginning on page 12, line 10 and extending through line 26:

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The present invention provides a method for treating a solid tumor characterized by overexpression of HER-2, or HER-2 variants (*see* Example 8) comprising administering an agent that binds to the extracellular domain (ECD) of HER-2, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of (a) an isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} ~~at an affinity of at least 10^8~~ , (b) an isolated and glycosylated polypeptide having from about 300 to 419 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2, wherein the C terminal 79 amino acids are present, and wherein at least three N-linked glycosylation sites are present, (c) a monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of

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conclude
HER-2, and (d) combinations thereof, with the proviso that the agent cannot be the monoclonal antibody alone. Preferably, the solid tumor that overexpresses HER-2 is selected from the group consisting of breast cancer, small cell lung carcinoma, ovarian cancer, prostate cancer, gastric carcinoma, cervical cancer, esophageal carcinoma, and colon cancer. Preferably, the agent is the isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1. Most preferably, the agent is a combination of the isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1 and the monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of HER-2.

Additionally, please **substitute** the following paragraph for the corresponding paragraph beginning on page 13, line 5 and extending through line 17:

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The present invention further provides a method for targeting a therapeutic agent to solid tumor tissue, wherein the solid tumor tissue is characterized by overexpression of HER-2, comprising attaching the therapeutic agent to an isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} at an affinity of at least 10^8 . Preferably, the isolated polypeptide is from about 69 to 79 amino acids in length. Preferably, the isolated polypeptide binds to a site on the ECD of HER-2 that is different from the site of binding of ~~Hereceptin®~~ HERCEPTIN® (a marketed humanized monoclonal antibody that is used for the treatment of cancer and that binds to the ECD or HER-2). It was discovered that the 79 amino acid polypeptide [SEQ ID NO. 1] exhibited surprising high affinity binding properties to the ECD of HER-2. Moreover, the site of such binding is different and unaffected by the site of binding of a marketed humanized monoclonal antibody (~~Hereceptin®~~ HERCEPTIN®). Therefore, the high binding affinity enables the 79 amino acid polypeptide to function as a targeting molecule to tumor cells expressing HER-2.

Additionally, please **substitute** the following Abstract for the corresponding Abstract on page 44:

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There is disclosed a pharmaceutical composition for treating solid tumors that overexpress HER-2, comprising an agent selected from the group consisting of (a) an isolated polypeptide having from about 50 to 79 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 1, wherein the polypeptide binds to the extracellular domain ECD of HER-2 with an affinity binding

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constant of at least 10^8 M^{-1} ~~at an affinity of at least 10^8~~ , (b) an isolated and glycosylated polypeptide having from about 300 to 419 amino acids taken from the sequence of SEQ ID NO. 2, wherein the C terminal 79 amino acids are present, and wherein at least three N-linked glycosylation sites are present, (c) a monoclonal antibody that binds to the ECD of HER-2, and (d) combinations thereof, with the proviso that the agent cannot be the monoclonal antibody alone, and pharmaceutically acceptable carrier. Also disclosed are prognostic and diagnostic assays.

Finally, please *substitute* the following attached further amended SEQUENCE LISTING for that beginning on page 34 and extending through page 39 (no new matter has been added):

See SEQUENCE LISTING, attached hereto as APPENDIX A